

# September Partner Panel



Wednesday, September 21, 2016



# Cat Intake and Outcomes FYTD 2016 (10/01/15 to 9/21/16)

RETURN TO  
OWNER/GUARDIAN  
70  
2%

ADJUSTED  
TOTAL  
EUTHANASIA  
481  
10%

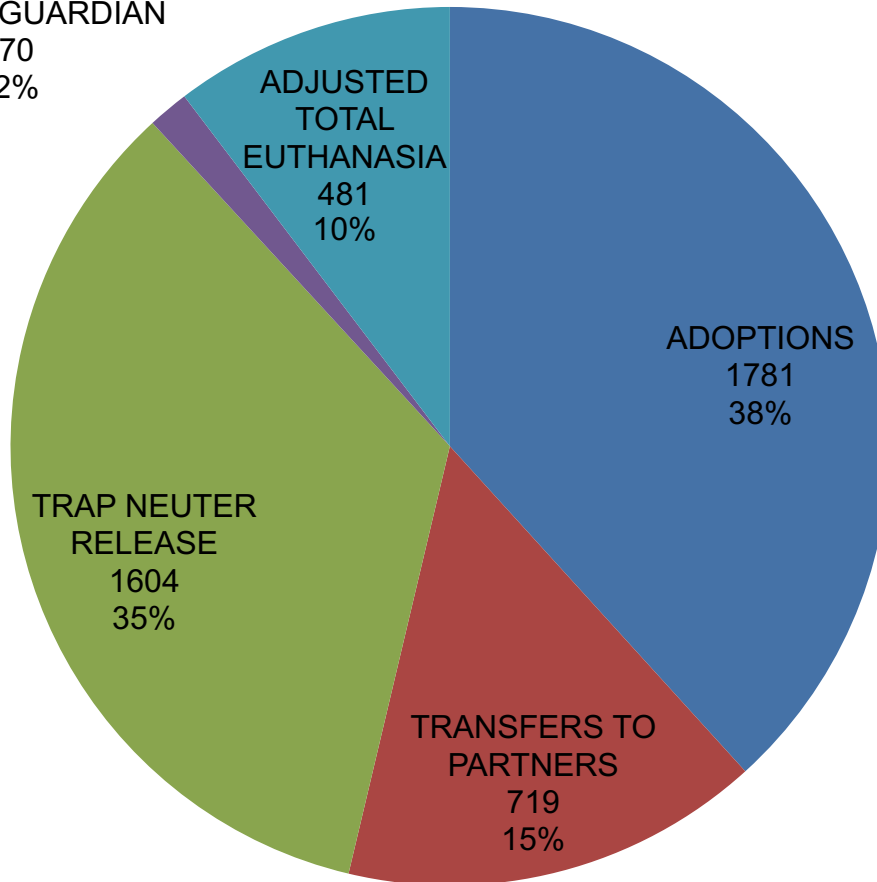
ADOPTIONS  
1781  
38%

TRAP NEUTER  
RELEASE  
1604  
35%

TRANSFERS TO  
PARTNERS  
719  
15%

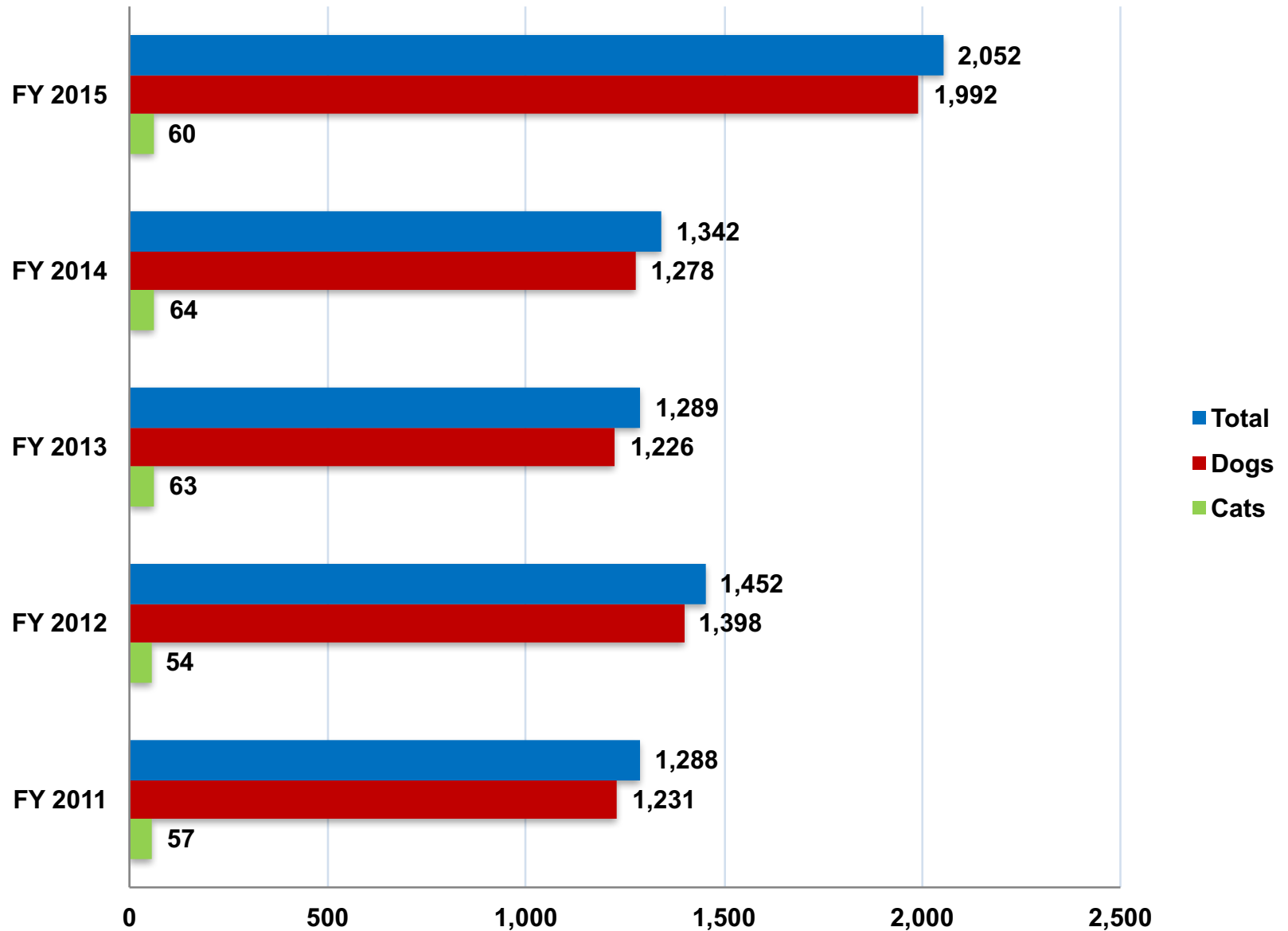
Cat Intakes: 4681

Cat Outcomes: 4655





# ANNUAL RETURN TO OWNER COMPARISON



# Feral Cat Ordinance - History

- ❖ In 2012, Fort Worth adopted a feral cat ordinance which allowed for Trap Neuter Return (TNR) and Return to Field (RTF)
- ❖ We believe that TNR/RTF is the appropriate way to handle feral and stray cats.
- ❖ We understand the alternative for the vast majority of these cats is to be trapped and euthanized.
- ❖ Despite the ordinance, the shelter found itself still euthanizing large numbers of cats in 2014.
- ❖ We felt this was unacceptable and in conflict with our belief in TNR/RTF.



# FWACC - TNR Services - History

- ❖ October and November of 2014
  - ❖ City partnered with the Texas Coalition for Animal Protection, Spay Neuter Network, Humane Society of North Texas and the Fairmont community in a pilot program that was paid for through a grant obtained by Spay Neuter Network.
  - ❖ A large apartment complex was evacuated, leaving large numbers of stray and feral cats. The City extended its efforts to assist in TNR to that area as opposed to mass euthanasia.
  - ❖ The shelter continued to accept stray and feral cats from the general public and, despite these two programs, euthanized over 50% of the cats admitted to the shelter.
  - ❖ We felt this was unacceptable and, through partnerships with individuals and groups interested in helping these cats, the city began processing feral and stray cats for TNR/RTF as our capacity allowed.



# FWACC - TNR Services – History Continued

- ❖ This was not meant to be a perpetual service.
- ❖ We have reached our capacity for taking care of domestic pets; thus, excess capacity no longer exists for feral cats.
- ❖ Additionally, we need to re-evaluate the old practice of taking feral cats at the shelter knowing that many will be euthanized.
- ❖ The feral cat ordinance was adopted based on non-profit and rescue groups handling all feral projects.



# Feral Kitten Education Campaign

- ❖ The City continues to look for ways to compassionately address stray and feral cats and kittens.
- ❖ Last spring, we initiated a large public education program to help citizens understand that baby kitten's best hope for survival is with their mother.
- ❖ Continuation of this education campaign will remain part of our program.

# End of Shelter TNR Services

## What does it mean?

- ❖ The cessation of our TNR services is related to the capacity of our shelter to provide these services through City funds.
- ❖ Our commitment to TNR or to feral and stray cats has not changed.
- ❖ Our cessation of admitting feral and stray cats is based upon our commitment to TNR/RTF and our commitment to reduce trap and euthanize.
- ❖ FWACC will provide our citizens with information and contacts for TNR, spay and neuter, foster care and other feral and stray cat resources.
- ❖ FWACC will work with interested individuals and groups to continue to promote compassionate management of our feral and stray cat population.





# Changes to the Program

- ❖ The shelter will no longer provide spay/neuter services for feral cats on a ROUTINE basis.
- ❖ We will continue to explore options for projects, sharing our surgical center with a non-profit to provide the service using private/grant funding, etc.
- ❖ Feral cats, as a general policy, will not be accepted at the shelter.
- ❖ Staff will encourage residents to work with non-profits.
- ❖ The City will help support grant writing for non-profits.

# Program Transition

- ❖ Between now and October 1, we will employ some flexibility on a case by case situation.
- ❖ Between October 1 and November 1, we will be operating under this policy more strictly and will use this period to identify opportunities moving forward.
- ❖ After November 1, we will strictly follow the policy with periodic reviews and/or modifications based on funding, capacity, etc.



# Moving Forward

We will need your help in creating an updated list of service providers for feral cats.

- Panther City Feral Cat Coalition
  - Feral Friends
- Where can rescue groups can get high volume spay/neuter services for feral cats?
  - TCAP
  - Spay Neuter Network
- Locations/costs for discounted services?
- We need your help in creating a list of resources where rescue groups can get feral cats microchipped and vaccinated?
- Any other cities, or organizations, offering vaccination, sterilization, microchipping for feral cats free of charge?
- Anyone offering high volume Spay/Neuter for feral cats free of charge?



# Questions and Answers

**Is the Shelter going to euthanize all the feral cats brought to its door?**

- No.
- The shelter will not accept healthy stray and feral cats
- Staff will refer citizens to private individuals and organizations who can assist with TNR/RTF.

# Questions and Answers

**Are the Animal Control Officers still going to collect feral cats just to euthanize them?**

- No.
- Officers will refer citizens to private individuals and organizations who can assist them with TNR/RTF.
- Hoarding and public health, welfare and safety situations will be handled differently.

# Questions and Answers

## **Will your domestic kitten program include bottle babies & kittens under 12 weeks?**

- Weaned kittens, like adult domestic cats, presented to the shelter by owners who are no longer able to care for them will be adopted, transferred to one of our partner organizations, placed in a barn cat program or humanely euthanized.
- Weaned stray and feral kittens will be eligible for the City's TNR program through private individuals and organizations.
- Most national advocates of feral cats believe found feral and stray baby kittens should be left where they are unless it is absolutely certain that there is no mother to care for them. Continuation of this education campaign will remain part of our program.
- If we have an existing commitment of immediate capacity from our current fosters or other partners to care for kittens that have lost their mother and are not able to survive on their own, we will utilize these resources to get them into foster care or transfer them to a partner organization.

# Questions and Answers

## What about Mom's with babies?

- Nursing cats, presented to the shelter by owners who are no longer able to care for them will be adopted, transferred to one of our partner organizations, placed in a barn cat program, or humanely euthanized if necessary.
- Stray and feral nursing cats will be eligible for the City's TNR program through private individuals and organizations.

# Questions and Answers

**Will you continue to take them in & network them through your Facebook Urgent page?**

- The Urgent Animal Facebook page is a volunteer effort run by dedicated animal advocates.
- FWACC works with these partners.
- Operation of the Urgent page is up to these volunteers.



# Questions and Answers

**Will you still provide spay neuter services or give vouchers to the rescues who pull from you?**

- Our goal is that all domestic cats or kittens will be spayed or neutered prior to adoption or transfer to a partner organization.
- If cats or kittens are unable to be spayed or neutered prior to adoption, a voucher for the spay or neuter surgery maybe provided, subject to annual funding.
- If cats or kittens are unable to be spayed or neutered prior to transfer, it will be the responsibility of the transfer partner to have the pet spayed and neutered as well as all other necessary treatment and preventative care.

# Questions and Answers

## **Will the foster network be abandoned?**

- We will continue to utilize and grow Cowtown Crashpads, our foster program.

# Questions and Answers

**Additional Questions?**

